

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Before this Amendment, claims 1-3, and 9 were present for examination. Claims 1 and 9 are amended. No claims are cancelled; and no new claims are added. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 9 are present for examination, and claims 1 and 9 are the independent claims. No new matter is added by these amendments.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of "Simplifying Complex Project Management: Complex Projects at US West Benefit from AutoPlan II Project Management Software", by Larry Stevens, August 1995 issue of Open Computing ("Stevens").

Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination simultaneously with this Amendment.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, for example, at p. 11, l. 19-p. 14, l. 14. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of Stevens.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Office Action stated that the report made by Stevens is a collection of attribute information about tasks that are distributed amongst a plurality of subprojects. The Office Action appears to mean that the Stevens report includes the information corresponding to the compound WBS (Work Breakdown Structure) of the present invention. In section 6 of the Office Action, the Office Action stated that the Gantt and PART charts collect and display attribute information about tasks from different subprojects. This appears to mean that the Gantt and PART charts include the information corresponding to the compound WBS of the present invention. However, Stevens does not show the feature of the

present invention that the same stages of works of plural subprojects are compounded and displayed.

For example, assume that one system is divided into plural subsystems (corresponding to subprojects) and respective subsystems are entrusted to different companies or departments. At the intermediate stage of the system development, some of the subsystems are connected, and at the final stage, all of the subsystems are connected. At those stages, any contradiction between the subsystems may be found. For example, some components are missing or delayed. It may cause the system re-design or the development completion delay which increase the development cost. See, e.g., Applicants' specification at page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 9. Accordingly, in each stage, such as "design", "manufacture", or "DB logic design" as shown in Fig. 2, one can check if the products of subsystems do not include any contradiction. The compound (1020 of Fig. 10) of the same stage works of the subsystems facilitates such checking.

In contrast, while Stevens' Gantt chart and PART chart are well known techniques to display the information on a project, Stevens does not show to generate WBS of the subprojects from WBS of the base (upper) project and to interrelate the WBS's with each other. Stevens simply does not show to compound the same stages of works and display any compound work.

For example, in Stevens, AutoPlan II is discussed. The Gantt chart and the PERT chart are displayed for each task in a project in accordance with the specification of the user. If the user specifies two tasks, those charts for the two tasks can be displayed together. However, it is necessary for the user to specify which two tasks are displayed together. See Stevens at paragraph 11. However, if many tasks are interrelated with one another, it is difficult for the user to recognize them. Thus, the presently claimed invention need not specify such interrelation of the tasks when displaying. Imagine the warp and the woof. The woof corresponds to the subprojects and the warp corresponds to the stages of works. The Gantt chart and the PERT chart are the visible representation of one or some woof while the compound work display is the visible representation of one or some warp.

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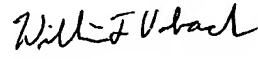
Accordingly, in Stevens, it is impossible to compound the same stages of works and display the compound WBS.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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